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pear that they were written long after the erection of existing Ogham monuments, which certainly belong to Christian times.

The conclusion to which Mr. Graves has arrived, as regards the origin of Ogham character, is shortly this, that it was framed by persons acquainted with the later and developed Runic alphabets, such as were used by the Anglo-Saxons. If this conclusion be well founded, the existence of Ogham monuments in Ireland does not prove, as is commonly supposed, that the Irish had the use of letters before the introduction of Christianity into this country. On the other hand, it must be admitted, that even if the recency of the Ogham be granted, the question respecting the time of the introduction of letters into Ireland still remains unsettled. Long before the invention of the Ogham character, it seems likely that the Irish may have had letters of some kind: either Roman letters obtained from Britain, or Runes derived from some of the Northern nations, with whom they certainly had intercourse in very remote times.

Mr. Graves exhibited a rubbing of an inscription on one of the upright stones supporting a cromleach at Lennan in the parish of Tullycorbet, county of Monaghan.

The inscription, though not deeply cut, is well preserved, being executed on a smooth part of the stone, completely sheltered from the action of the weather.



Of its genuineness Mr. Graves acknowledged that doubts might be entertained, inasmuch as no similar inscriptions have

been yet discovered in this country. At the same time he thought it desirable to bring it under the notice of antiquaries, in order that, if it be spurious, competent authority may pronounce it to be a forgery ; or, if it should appear to be genuine, that other inscriptions of the same kind might be sought for on the cromleachs which abound in this country.

Mr. Graves suggested that some persons in the neighbourhood of Tullycorbet might possibly possess information calculated to throw light on this question.

The characters employed in the inscription seem to be Runes depending from a stem-line ; a mode of Runic writing which certainly was in use, though not the commonest. Mr. Graves abstained from offering any conjectures as to the reading of the inscription ; hoping that, if it should prove deserving of their attention, some of the English or Northern antiquaries, who have made Runes their special study, might be induced to exercise their deciphering powers upon it.

A note was read from the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, of Kilmuckridge, County Wexford, describing an ancient earthenware urn or crucible, found in his neighbourhood, containing several specimens of bronze articles, such as celts, rings, and a gouge, all in a state of advanced oxidation ; and also a portion of an instrument, composed apparently of an alloy resembling speculum metal, which was not oxidated on the surface. The hardness of the composition of this article was so great, a penknife would not cut it.

“ The urn was discovered about three feet below the surface, with a flag placed over it ; but no other stone, of any size or description, was found near it. The soil in which it was imbedded is a stiff, yellow clay, but the urn was filled with a dark-coloured earth, similar to that of the upper stratum. The urn contained no remains of bone, &c., or any other articles of antiquity than those now in your possession.